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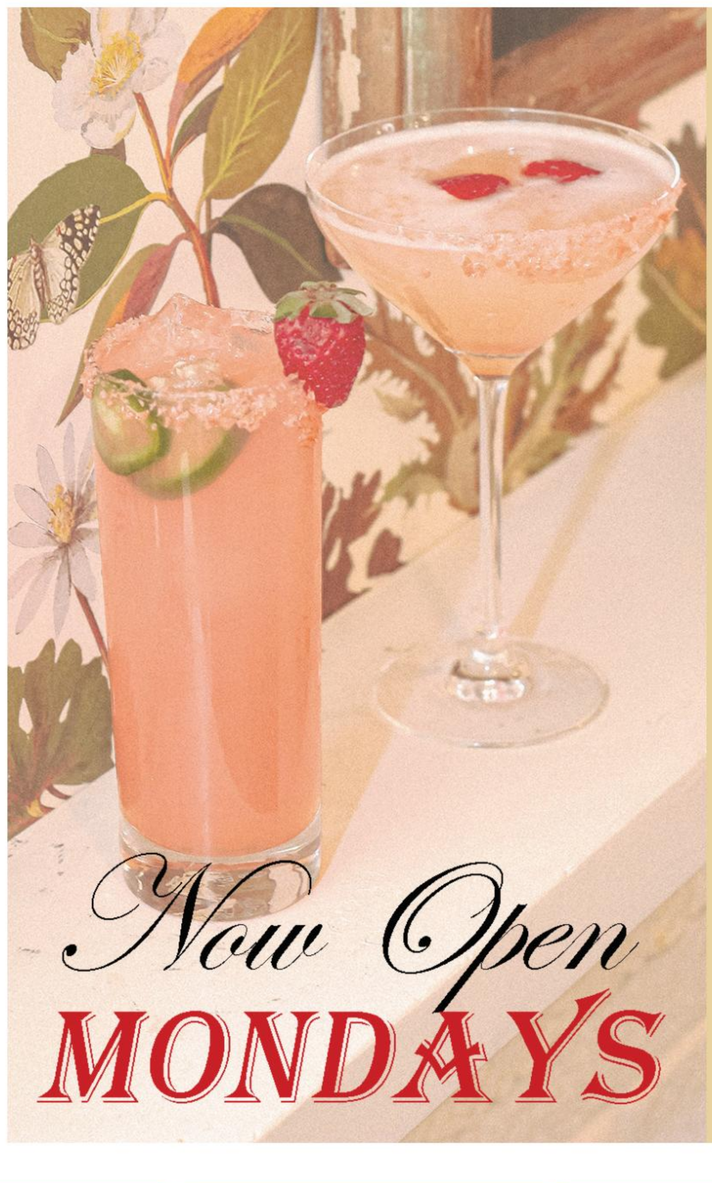
RED SMILES...
ENJOYING A STRAWBERRY SUNDAY AT STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

— PAGE 11 —

PHOTO OF MENDY BRITTON HOLDING CRUELLA WHILE SHE AND ILY MAE PENLEY ENJOY STRAWBERRY TREATS BY FRANCESCA SAGALA



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Berrien County Health Department invites fathers and their children to third annual Dad's Day in the Park

The Berrien County Health Department is inviting local dads, father figures and their families to the third annual Dad's Day in the Park event Saturday, July 26 at Union Park, 1250 Union Ave.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., attendees will enjoy free food while supplies last, activities, raffles and prizes from local businesses. They also will get information about educational and employment opportunities as well as health and wellness resources – all while connecting with other fathers and children.

Father-appreciation bags and an event T-shirt will also be handed out to the first 100 dads at this free-to-attend event.

"Dad's Day in the Park is dedicated to celebrating and uplifting all local father figures and their children," said Charlie Patterson, a Michigan Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting Program case manager at BCHD. "This is a special event where dads and kids can enjoy each other's company and learn about all the services we offer to set both dad and child up for success. We want fathers, especially young dads, to know they have resources and support in the community."

The event is organized by BCHD's Mi-APPP team, which works closely with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to address teen pregnancy and parenthood in the community.

Mi-APPP provides parenting support services to teens and their families through one- on-one case management and support for education, housing and more. The program is open to individuals 21 and younger who are parenting or expecting a child and living in Berrien County.

Mi-APPP focuses on young dads through its Son to a Father initiative, which provides participants opportunities to connect with other young dads in the area and discuss fatherhood.

For more information about Mi-APPP, visit www.berriencounty.org/708/michigan-adolescent-pregnancy-parenting.

Community members who have questions about Dad's Day in the Park are encouraged to contact Charlie Patterson at 269-252-1400 or cpatterson@bchdmi.org. — STAFF REPORTS

Nothing is faster than thought.
— Dino N. Fatouros

Lifesaving AEDs installed at Oselka Park in New Buffalo

The City of New Buffalo is proud to announce the recent installation of two Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) at Oselka Park.

This public safety initiative brings life-saving equipment to one of the community's most frequented recreational spaces where youth sports, community events, and family outings occur. AEDs are portable devices that can be used to help someone experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. Quick access to one during an emergency can mean the difference between life and death. The equipment and installation were made possible by funds from the city and a grant from The Pokagon Fund.

"The Pokagon Fund is proud to be a part of bringing these devices to a community park that is heavily utilized by the residents of the city and surrounding areas," said Dan Petersen, TPF executive director, said in a press release. "We especially want to thank Police Chief Rich Killips and Parks Director Kristen D'Amico for their leadership and legwork in bringing this project to fruition."

Both AEDs are stored in heated, weatherproof cabinets with built-in alarms and lighting, to ensure their accessibility in all seasons. Anyone who uses the units is also encouraged to contact emergency services for additional assistance. One unit is mounted on the northeast side of the pavilion building near the restrooms. The second is mounted on a stand-alone post located near the "Little Free Library" and the playground equipment.

"Having AEDs available at Oselka Park gives our community an added layer of protection," said Mayor Vance Price. "It's a simple step that could help save a life, and we're proud to make that resource available to the public."

More information about the City of New Buffalo's parks can be found at https://cityofnewbuffalomi.gov/city-parks/. The Pokagon Fund is a private, nonprofit

organization that supports projects that enhance the quality of life in southwestern

Berrien County, Hartford, Michigan, Dowagiac, Michigan and South Bend, Indiana.

More information can be found at www.pokagonfund.org. — STAFF REPORTS

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
VANCE PRICE, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, KAREN GEAR, RICH KNOLL, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Planning Commission to investigate site condominiums on AG land in Chikaming Township

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the Chikaming Township Board of Trustees approved the Planning Commission further investigating the issue of site condominiums on AG land at their Thursday, July 10, meeting.

Township supervisor David Bunte said that last month at the Utility Board meeting, trustee Rich Sullivan, who wasn't present at the July 10 meeting, said he had some concerns with regards to a potential development on Sawyer Road that is a site condominium, which is allowable in the current zoning ordinance on agricultural land.

The development has been approved by the Planning Commission.

"The concern that he's raised is this is now something we didn't allow in the past zoning ordinance, and it is now part of our zoning ordinance and allowable," Bunte said.

He added that Sullivan's requesting a moratorium on any future development until it can be further reviewed.

After a discussion with the township attorney, Bunte said he thought it would be best handled through the Planning Commission and for them to come back to the board with a recommendation.

He added a recommendation to the Planning Commission would include reviewing if the previous zoning ordinance didn't allow such a development on AG land and does the current one now allow it and "where we may have missed something when we did that change."

Planners could also look at recommending at "taking a harder look at having to make an amendment to the zoning ordinance that reflects whatever the public does or doesn't want," whether that be expansion in AG land and allowing site condominiums.

Currently, the township is in the master planning process. Part of the feedback that the Planning Commission has received has pertained to housing.

"From a procedural standpoint and what they're dealing with now when it comes to both the master plan and from a zoning ordinance amendment perspective, they're the ones that should initiate this review and/or request that we do put a moratorium on any future development until it can be thoroughly reviewed and then whether or not it goes through a zoning amendment," Bunte said, adding that the amendment would also be referenced in the master plan.

Board members approved the $4,000 cost for a housing study for Chikaming Township through Cornerstone Alliance.

Marla Schneider, president and CEO of Cornerstone, said that Cornerstone is commissioning a $70,000 housing study for Berrien County. Cornerstone will be breaking the county into eight different districts, with Chikaming falling into District Five.

The county will receive an around 400-page plus report back from Bowen National Research, which is conducting the study, and the data in the study will be broken up by districts.

There will be an add-on option for each individual community with a population of about 2,000 to have its own analysis, or "deeper dive," into its housing. The 30-page report can be included in the community's master plan, which is now required by law.

Once they have the data, Cornerstone would like to establish a housing resource, with the organization working with the municipalities that have participated in the study initially to "move forward housing" in the community.

Board members approved writing a letter with regards to having no objections for a CitySwitch cell tower at Brown Road and the CSX railway tracks with regards to the sites and structures of historical significance.

Bunte said the township received notice requesting feedback if there's any "historical reference or significance or environmental concerns" regarding the site of the tower, which would be located on the north and east side of the tracks from Brown Road at a parcel that's on CSX right of way.

The fourth change order for the Harbert Park Improvement Project was approved. Bunte said the township will be saving $18,199 for not having to incorporate a jack and bore system underneath the highway to connect the sewer line on the other side of the nonmotorized trail, as they'll now be able to tap into the sewer that remained from the old house on a nearby lot.

The donation from the Berlin family, who are longtime township supporters, of just under $11,000 has resulted in the creation of a "mental health patio," which will be called the Berlin Patio, which is located between the township office and fire department

Success in creating AI would be the biggest event in human history. Unfortunately, it might also be the last, unless we learn how to avoid the risks. — *Stephen Hawking*

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ELECTRICAL RELATED DROWNING BEING INVESTIGATED

Indiana Conservation Officers are investigating a man drowning after electrocuted in a body of water leading to and from Lake Michigan.

The body of Gabriel Gonzalez, 21, was recovered from Burns Waterway by divers in Portage, Indiana, after he disappeared beneath the surface late in the morning on Thursday, July 10.

According to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Hebron, Ind. man entered the water to retrieve an undisclosed object belonging to a boat owner that fell into the channel.

After grabbing the object, Gonzalez was swimming to wear the boat owner was docked when he apparently entered a field of electricity and slipped beneath the water's surface, DNR said.

His 23 year old brother along the water's edge jumped in to try and rescue him but he also was affected by the electrical current.

Fortunately, he was thrown a floatation device and pulled to safety.

According to DNR, the preliminary cause of death following an autopsy was determined to be drowning secondary to electrocution.

DNR officers urged the public to never enter the water near any dock with electric power due to the risk of death. — STAN MADDUX

New Buffalo Times
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SCHOLASTICS

School board hears update on athletic program, technology upgrades

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Student athletic participation has remained steady over the last several years at New Buffalo.

At the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education meeting Monday, July 14, Athletic Director Matt Johnson said that, between 2016 and 2021, student participation has remained right between 66-69 percent. For the 2024-2025 school year, participation was also at 69 percent.

Johnson said that, while the number of students available to play sports has dropped, the percentage of the ones playing them hasn't decreased.

In addition, 25 students have played three sports, which Johnson said he hasn't seen since before the pandemic.

He said he's concerned that 54 athletes were female and 65 male this past year and is working on getting girls more engage with athletics. Many girls are also one-sport athletes.

New Buffalo hasn't dropped any sports. Johnson said that they're the only school in the state of its size that offers the ones that it does.

Highlights from the past year have included girls basketball, which was in its first year as a co-op with River Valley, being conference co-champions; the girls track team being conference champions this year; eight students qualifying for state meets in track; five girls earning all-state honors in track; one girl earning All-State HM in Volleyball and Phoebe Zalewski qualifying for the State Swim Meet as a freshman.

The district is currently in the middle of its co-op schedule with River Valley, with Johnson saying they had to accelerate merging with girls soccer this year. Volleyball and track and baseball mergers are on track for next year.

The big project for the athletic department is the upcoming baseball and softball field renovations.

Upcoming goals include building school and community business relationships and partnerships, continuing to develop the partnership with River Valley for the co-op and increasing athletic visibility, school spirit and student/parent volunteering.

Superintendent Adam Bowen said that the co-op has been successful thanks to Johnson's "hard work and dedication."

Co-op meetings are sometimes three hours long once a month.

"You're talking about the most minute thing possible and you're trying to work through all these different aspects of combining two schools and it's not always perfect but at the end of the day, we figure out a solution that's best for the kids," he said.

Board members also heard about 2024-2025 technology upgrades from Jacob Stella, technology director.

Beginning in 2023, the district started installing keycard access on all doors, which will hopefully phase out traditional keys.

Surveillance coverage has been expanded at the middle/high school, with old cameras that are at least 10 years old being replaced. More outdoor cameras have been added at the bus garage, multiplex and tennis court/pickleball areas and outside the elementary school.

The district has also been in the process of "developing an integrated emergency platform," which has involved syncing the intercom system, door access controls, and emergency response system for a faster, more coordinated response during critical events.

Upgrades to the network for speed and reliability have also been taking place. The district is also upgrading its fiber optic backbone from 1 gigabyte to 10 across all buildings and connecting the outdoor areas to fiber hardwire.

Other upgrades have included digitizing all building usage forms, adding another Promethean Panel in the Elementary Art Room and, in the coming year, introducing Bloomz, which will replace multiple apps with one streamlined platform.

Board members approved letters of agreement for the Berrien County Insurance Consortium, with one for the New Buffalo Education Association/MEA/NEA All and another for New Buffalo Educational Personnel Association.

Bowen said insurance costs have been increasing over 10 percent every year. Currently, about 89 people at New Buffalo Area Schools take that insurance.

"If you have a catastrophic event the 89 people absorb that so that hit gets spread out by these 89 people whereas if you have a consortium that's over 750 people - if that gets hit, it's spread out between all those people, so you kind of share all that," he said.

Besides New Buffalo, Buchanan, Bridgman, Watervliet, Eau Claire, River Valley and Brandywine will part of the consortium.

Board members approved hiring Margaret Seifert, who Bowen said has been at Grand Ledge for the past couple years, to the position of kindergarten elementary teacher.

The installation of Multiplex Stadium Fiber Optics for $31,117.37 was approved.

To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

GETTING GOOD HEALTH BACK

Are you ready to make some change to better your health? Are you at a point that you are sick and tired of being sick and tired? Are you overweight? If any of these points resonate in truth to you, then it is time to take back full responsibility of your own health. Only YOU can make the difference. No Doctor, hospital or drug can heal your body. Healing comes from the supply of life-giving nutrients that is put into your body to operate every cell to its highest performance. Your body will heal form most illness naturally. It is your job to assist it along. I teach that the "Cold IS the cure" The runny nose, sneezing and mucous, is your body's natural immune system working hard to rid whatever bacteria that has invaded its tissue. Assist this by giving plenty of fluids and rest. Suppressing the fever, runny nose and such will only embed the toxins deeper.

Become self-empowered and make today the day that you are going to give yourself the gift of good health. Health starts with your mental decision that no matter what obstacles comes before you that you are going to move forward. The first step is to say to yourself that you are ready. You are tired of what is not working, and are willing to make any changes necessary to get your health back on track. None of us want to spend our Golden years in nursing homes being taken care of. But look around. This is becoming epidemic. Do you know that adult diapers outsell children's in our Country? This is disturbing to me. This could be the change you have been waiting for. You are in charge, so if you make a poor diet mistake, you get back up the next day and start over. The final result will speak volumes. Permanent weight loss is a side effect of good health.

In my clinic, I taught patients to eat the foods and live the lifestyle that prevented disease. Unfortunately, this lifestyle isn't just occasionally, it is every day. Every organ and tissue in our body is made up of living cells. These living cells operate on living food. Live food is our fuel that will feed each cell the nutrition it needs to survive and stay healthy. What is living food? A wide range of vital life force nutrients (vitamins, minerals, amino acids, oxygen) and live enzymes. If you want to become your own healthcare advocate, begin by reading your food labels. Synthetics, chemicals, artificial colors, dyes and processed foods are all at the root of today's Standard American Diseases. These added chemicals are put there to enhance flavors, and entice the taste buds to want more. These stimulate appetite, cause metabolic waste, headaches, weakness, obesity, edema, depression, pain and so on. They are also at the root of cancers, diabetes and heart disease. Processed foods keep the medical establishment very busy.

Learn to bring living fruits, vegetables, nuts, seed, beans and whole grains into your everyday diet. Get a juicer and learn to make fresh green vegetable juices and green food smoothies. Today, it is easier than ever to be healthy. These foods are available. Watch your health change and your weight fall off.

Karen Edwards is a board-Certified Dr. of Naturopathy, Master Herbalist, Vegan and Raw food Chef. She is owner of Holistic Alternatives in New Buffalo and La Porte for over 25 years.

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Carrie Coon as Bertha Russell, radiant in "The Gilded Age"

Agnes van Rhijn (Christine Baranski) and Ada Brook (Cynthia Nixon) hold court in a grand ballroom

Ben Ahlers and Harry Richardson bring the ambitious Jack Trotter and Larry Russell to life in "The Gilded Age"

Inside star-studded world

"THE GILDED AGE" SEASON 3

TEXT BY ALEXANDER FATOUROS | PHOTOS BY KAROLINA WOJTASIK OF HBO

Get your opera glasses ready! In an exclusive interview for The Theatre Times, I recently spoke with Emmy-nominated executive producer and director Michael Engler, and casting directors Bernard Telsey and Adam Caldwell of The Telsey Office. We dove deep into HBO's "The Gilded Age" Season 3, Julian Fellowes' Emmy-winning drama, which premiered in late June 2025 on HBO and Max. This series plunges viewers into the glittering, yet competitive, world of 1880s New York society, where old money struggles to maintain its hold against the ambitious rise of new fortunes.

Season 3 takes a dazzling dive into Newport's prominent Black elite community. Engler and the casting team confirmed this isn't just a side note, but a deliberate, historically rich expansion for a more nuanced tapestry. My interview highlighted their strategic casting of Broadway royalty like two-time Tony winners Phylicia Rashad (Mrs. Elizabeth Kirkland) and Brian Stokes Mitchell (Mr. Kirkland), joined by rising star Jordan Donica (Dr. William Kirkland). These actors, along with Denée Benton (Peggy Scott), notably shine, showcasing the show's knack for casting exceptional established and emerging talent.

During my conversation, Michael Engler and the casting directors shared the show's shimmering secrets on how "The Gilded Age" consistently attracts top-tier stage talent. Engler, the director, credited theatre actors' unique training, noting they are "particularly adept at achieving Julian's language and sense of style" and creating the world's grandeur and social nuances. This commitment to exceptional casting results in masterful storytelling and captivating performances as old and new money spheres brilliantly collide. Viewers follow the ambitious Bertha Russell (Carrie Coon) and her powerful husband George (Morgan Spector) as they challenge and reshape the exclusive social landscape.

The excitement doesn't stop there. The eight new episodes also unveil historical giant J.P. Morgan (Bill Camp). His arrival promises a fascinating shift in power dynamics, and bringing such an icon to the screen presents unique directorial challenges. Director Michael Engler emphasized how this clash will force George Russell, "who's almost always the top dog in the room," to adjust and find new ways to wield his power in Morgan's commanding presence.

These fabulous new additions, as revealed in my conversation, will deepen the series' meticulously crafted world and stir compelling new social dynamics. For more insider details directly from the creative team, dive into my full interview, "'The Gilded Age' Season 3 Casting Secrets," by Alexander Fatouros, in the July 6, 2025, issue of The Theatre Times—it's a must-read.

Read the full, delightful scoop at www.thetheatretimes.com/the-gilded-age-season-3-casting-secrets/

Morgan Spector as George Russell commands the room at a painting unveiling

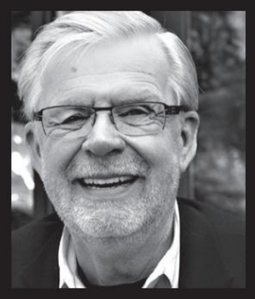
Harry Richardson (Larry Russell) and Louisa Jacobson (Marian Brook) share a moment

Carrie Coon (Bertha Russell) and Morgan Spector (George Russell), a united force in "The Gilded Age"

Audra McDonald, Jordan Donica, Denée Benton, Jessica Frances Dukes

Louisa Jacobson as the elegant Marian Brook

From the Bleachers



COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

July is the month that baseball teams have to decide if they are going to try to get to the World Series this year, or trade away established players for youngsters they hope will turn into stars so they can compete in the future.

While it seems like such a long time ago, it was only four years ago the Cubs were trading the core of their championship team.

This year, the shoe is on the other foot and the Cubs are trying to get to the World Series again, so it appears that they will trade away some of their prized youngsters for a pitcher or two, and possibly a third baseman.

One of the trades that the Cubs made in 2021 was with the Mets. At that time, they traded local favorite Javier Baez (along with pitcher Trevor Williams) for a promising but risky outfielder with an easily remembered name, Peter Crow-Armstrong.

The Cubs made the trade even though PCA was out for the season with a torn labrum in his shoulder that required surgery. Ironically, both Baez (who signed a free agent contract with the Detroit Tigers) and PCA are the starting center fielders for their respective leagues in this year's all star game.

The Cubs gambled on the high upside player. Soon, Crow-Armstrong was showing off his blend of speed, defense, and baseball IQ, and the Cubs and their fans had a new favorite.

This season has been unbelievable so far for PCA.

Everything we knew about the 23-year-old center fielder from California has happened. He is a future Gold Glove outfielder and will steal a lot of bases. But this year, he's hitting the ball with power that few, if any of us, knew he had.

As of the Saturday before the All-Star game, PCA has 25 homers, 70 runs batted in, and 27 stolen bases, and there are still 67 games to go before the season ends.

For comparison, the entire season last year saw him hit 10 homers, 47 runs batted in and 27 stolen bases. To say he's having a fantastic season is an understatement!

The Cubs other All-Star, 28-year-old Kyle Tucker, has enjoyed a really good season, and has been a steady leader for the team.

Tucker's arrival coincided with the team's improvement and hopefully he can get an acceptable contract at the end of the year.

First things first, it appears that a few trades are on the near horizon. Cub fans, like me, want the team to get some help, but not at the expense of the entire farm system they have worked so hard to develop. The teams president, Jed Hoyer, has to make a few critical decisions in the next few weeks, and those decisions will determine his future with the Cubs. Good luck Mr. Hoyer.

Nelson Mandela said, "May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

When you fight a shorter fighter, you attack with uppercuts. *— Terence Crawford*

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Family, friends remember School of American Music founder

IN PRAISE OF GARTH

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

While most in the area knew Garth Taylor as a founder of the School of American Music, which offers lessons on a variety of instruments to students of all ages, many more chapters filled the pages of his life.

"An incredibly full and busy life, marked with many achievements," Tom Flint, president of SAM's board of directors, said at The Acorn Center for the Performing Arts during Garth's Celebration of Life Wednesday, July 9.

David Garth Taylor was born Nov. 3, 1949, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and passed away May 10, 2025.

Robin Taylor said that Garth was the "quintessential big brother: "protective, supportive nurturing, kind and generous." Coming up four grades behind him in school in Bloomington, Minnesota, Robin said that Garth helped him when a "sadistic teacher" made them write papers on every war the United States had won and wrote his World War II paper for him. He exposed Robin to political theatre and his various performances in high school plays and, for a brief period, at the University of Minnesota's Theatre of Involvement.

A "champion debater," Garth traveled on a debate team to competitions throughout the Midwest. He secured "airtight" arguments for each side of controversial topics, such as if the United States needed to get out of Vietnam or not.

"I think everybody who knew him knows how good he was at having an airtight argument and being very persuasive," Robin said.

After leaving Minnesota to head out west to study at the University of California-Berkely,, Garth headed to the University of Chicago. He received a Ph.D., as well as worked at the National Opinion Research Center. He was also a teacher, and used his research to co-author a book, "The Paths of Neighborhood Change: Race and Crime in Urban America."

In between his analytical pursuits, Garth continued to nurture his creative side by playing his own music. Once, Steve Garry, who was Garth's teacher assistant, took him to see Doug Kershaw, during which Garth "couldn't stop clapping" when he played all 15 fiddle bows that he'd put in upright in a wastebasket.

An abstract from a 2008 study of Garth's stated the following: "There is a significant correlation between the amount of amateur, informal arts activity and neighborhood stability and/or improvement. This correlation is evidence of magnetization—an increase in the desirability, commitment, social integration, and quality of life in a community area. We believe this is so because arts make public spaces enjoyable, they create shared experience, and they encourage intergenerational activity."

In between his academic chapter and founding SAM, Taylor and his wife, Theresa "Sue" Hollis, adopted a son, Blake. He also launched a second career in the nonprofit world and became the director of research at the Chicago Urban League and executive director of the Metro Chicago Information Center. It was in his role as executive director, Douglas Dow said, where Garth learned the skills that he would utilize at SAM: organizational management, grants and fundraising.

In late 2011, Garth told Marge Spears, a founding board member of SAM, about starting "an "old town school of music here in Harbor Country." In 2013, Three Oaks Township Library made four rooms available for lessons and administration. In 2014, he negotiated paying $1 per year for SAM to lease space at the former Three Oaks Village Hall. Through a Michigan Place-Making Grant, GoFundMe Campaign and local donations, over $100,000 was invested in Three Oaks Arts & Education Center by 2015.

In 2012, SAM had one student. In 2022, it was 130.

Garth also played guitar, as well as composed music and wrote curriculum for teaching guitar.

It was a journey to get SAM up and running in such a short time. Like with his other pursuits in life, though, Garth remained undeterred.

"Garth was a very large presence, he filled a room…Once he had a vison, he pursued it relentlessly," Spears said.

Once, Dow said Garth gave him a piece of career advice: Declare victory and leave.

"Garth has, in his inimitable way, declared victory and left us. He will be missed," Dow said.

Annekah Witter, Diane Ruzevich and Dave Witter perform a Scottish medley in honor of Garth Taylor

Livia Gazzolo, SAM's first student, sings a tribute song to Garth Taylor

Martha Cares opens the Celebration of Life for Garth Taylor

Tim Hindes and Donna Mitchell perform When I'm Gone in honor of Garth Taylor

Enjoying a strawberry Sunday at Strawberry Social

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

An old-fashioned summer tradition, the seventh annual Allan Boyd Memorial Strawberry Social took place in the gazebo garden at New Troy Community Center Sunday, July 13.

The free event offered "big band" live music from the Down by the Dock, as well as tempting treats such as strawberry shortcake, ice cream, and root beer floats.

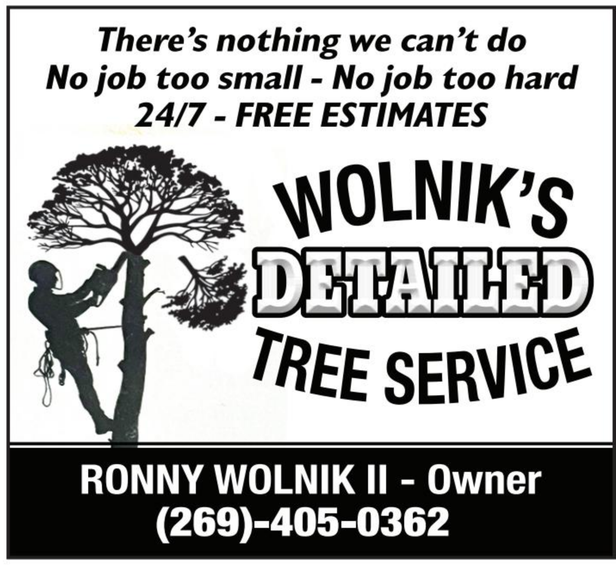
The Boyd family has gifted this event to the community in memory of their patriarch Allan Boyd, who would've celebrated his 100th birthday. Allan grew up in New Troy and attended New Troy High School, which used to stand on the site of the current New Troy Township Park, and owned a garage in the center of town, became a township supervisor and remained a prominent figure in local politics for many years.

Guests line up for strawberry treats

Guests enjoy a strawberry Sunday in New Troy

Down By the Dock plays a medley of tunes in the Gazebo Garden

Melissa Boyd, Jan Boyd Barton, Carson Boyd and Brett Boyd pay tribute to Allan Boyd for what would've been his 100th birthday



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Here in New Buffalo, we've been captivated by the light over Lake Michigan, and we know many of you have your own favorite sunset views — whether it's right here at home or from a far-off shore.

We're inviting you to share your most breathtaking sunset photos with us. Each week, our Sunset Series will feature one image and a short reflection — a chance to pause together and appreciate the simple, stunning magic of day's end.

Send your photo, the location, and a few words about what it meant to you to: info@NewBuffaloTimes.com with subject "Sunset Series".

We welcome submissions from everywhere — with a soft spot for those taken right here in New Buffalo and along the lakeshore.

Let's create a shared gallery of light — a reminder that the sun's setting is not an ending, but part of the rhythm we all live by. — KRISTIN FATOUROS

A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

An Unlikely White Knight

I was relatively new at DIC Entertainment. I'd written some scripts, gotten hired as an assistant story editor, been moved up to story editor and now Howard Cowen was figuratively and literally blocking my path. I'd never allowed anyone or anything to intimidate me. So after Howard asked, "How was your little Care Bears meeting?" I said, "What's your problem?"

He snarled, "My problem is you threatening to blacklist writers unless they show up for your meeting."

I defended, "We're behind schedule. We need to get back on track."

Lori walked up behind Howard and said, "Let's not get into a pissing contest."

We turned as Andy approached next, with, "Who's in a pissing contest?"

Howard replied, "No one, Andy. I just don't like it when someone gets too big for their britches."

Andy leveled his gaze at Howard. "Neither do I. Or maybe you've forgotten where you were at when I first brought you to DIC..."

Howard frowned. I watched him deflate and slink off.

People say Andy Heyward's a tough businessman. Some say he's ruthless; a few say heartless. Well, you have to be tough in this business, and at times ruthless and maybe even heartless once in a while.

But I know of at least two times when Andy showed empathy, compassion and generosity. I became aware of one after Lori told me Howard's whole story, and what Andy had done about it. Another was years later when Andy demonstrated 'empathy, compassion and generosity' at a time when I badly needed it. But that's another story.

At my desk the next morning, I got to work on the one Care Bears script I had in-house – left over from the Sandy Fries era. It was dreadful, written by a writer who shall remain nameless. No warmth, no humor, no caring. And this was a television series that was supposed to ooze warmth, humor and caring. I began a page-one rewrite.

As I said a silent prayer that my writers would start delivering story springboards the next day, there was a knock at my door. I called, "Come." Howard opened the door and stood tentatively, offering a qualified "I was a tad tough on you yesterday."

I granted, "I could have handled my solicitation of story springboards better."

Howard corrected, "You mean your demand for story springboards?"

We laughed. He pulled a floppy disc from his blazer and dropped it on my desk. "These will help." Ever the movie director, Howard paused for dramatic effect, then said, "Ten Care Bears springboards; all right on target."

"I'll bet."

Then he said. "You're going to do all right around here. Jean likes you."

I leaned back. "I'd like to think talent has something to do with it."

"It does. But so does who you know."

As he started for the door, I said, "Then I guess you'll do okay, too." When he turned back to me, I say, "Andy likes you, too."

Then he grinned and left, and I start reading his springboards. They were all right on target. The Great Man, indeed.

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OBITUARIES

Robert John Wittenburg, Sr.
1932-2025

Robert John Wittenburg, Sr, 92, formerly of Lakeside, now of La Porte, IN, passed away on Thursday – July 10, 2025 at Miller's Health and Rehab in La Porte, IN. Arrangements have been entrusted to Sommerfeld Chapel – 15 N. Barton St., New Buffalo, MI.

Robert was born in New Buffalo, MI on Nov. 25, 1932 to the late Glen and Ella (Wesley) Wittenburg.

Robert was a 1950 graduate of New Buffalo High School. He served our country while in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. On Oct. 12, 1957 he married Priscilla Hampton. Robert and his brother were in partnership and owned and operated New Buffalo Concrete Products for many years.

Robert is survived by his wife – Priscilla; his four children – Susan (David) Zolvinski of La Porte, Lisa Wittenburg of La Porte, Robert (Kathy) Wittenburg, Jr of Sawyer and Roger Wittenburg of La Porte; grandchildren – Stephanie Lyons, Robert W. Wittenburg, Kylee Kennedy, Mason Wittenburg, Allyson Harris and Lars Wittenburg; five great grandchildren; and a brother – Richard (Jean) Wittenburg of El Paso, TX.

Private services will be held at a later date. Robert's final resting place will be at Pine Grove Cemetery, New Buffalo, MI.

DEATH NOTICES

THREE OAKS – Norman "Norm" Dudeck, 84, of Michigan City, Indiana, passed away on Monday, July 14, 2025. Arrangements are pending at Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks.

A Day in the Life

MAN'S BEST FRIEND...

BY LAWRENCE VON EBELER

He' s just a mutt. I got him the same day after I had my last Lhasa Apso put down because he suffered for weeks. I knew selfishly how distraught I would be after he was gone. My friend took me to the Humane Society directly afterward, and when we walked in the door the Director (whom I know) said "Oh Larry I know you will want a small dog and we don't have any" (I don' know how she knew since we came directly from the vet.'s. I hadn't said a word yet!). Fortunately, her assistant standing near her said "I think you forgot about Roscoe". She said "Oh, I forgot about him" and he went and got Roscoe. But when he brought Roscoe, (the original one), I didn't find him appealing because he looked a little too much like a Pitbull! I had to say that I didn't like him. The Director said "Oh I'm sorry, but that's all we have to show you Larry". Her alert employee spoke up again and said "Oh, we had a little dog come in today that you don't yet know about, if he wants to see him", and he went and got him to show me. In the meanwhile the Director took us to the big Board Room room (very nice) to wait for him to get the puppy. Well, when the attendant came back with this darling dog he let him down and the dog ran right to me and I picked him up and that was it! He was an adorable mixed breed with a hint of being a weiniedog, a beautiful face with a black and tan colored coat of longish hair! I said immediately "I'll take him!"

The Director said "That's great but you can't take him today because he has to be neutered first, which will take a couple of days", I said that would be okay if it had to be done. As it turned out they called me the next day and said I could pick him up because he had been fixed and he was doing so well that I could get him early. I was thrilled.

How did he get his name? I loved the name when they showed me the Pit Bull looking dog by that name and so I took the name but not the dog, and so Roscoe became his name. Thus, Roscoe came into my life with a borrowed name and a new forever and happy master!

Roscoe has become my most favorite creature in the world, of course. But, his first act was to run away! Fortunately he had on his new collar with my phone number on it and a neighbor called and said he had a darling dog in his arms that he thought was probably mine. Needless to say, I was very very grateful. He has not run away since, not that he has much of an opportunity since he's hardly ever outside and does his business on "Piddle Pads" as I cannot take him outside for walks, given the fact that I cannot walk without my walker. He doesn't seem to mind. It's funny, I just had the thought that I could make a fenced dog run for him. I never even had thought of that, until this writing! That's my next project!

The Humane Society didn't know how old he was because he was a 'Run Away' and no one reported him for weeks, but they estimated he was seven years old. I had to take him to the vet to have some teeth extracted and the vet, Dr. Sorensen thought he was more like eleven considering he had to remove so many teeth. Whatever the case, he'll probably out-live me, but there should be no problem finding him a new home if that be the case.

Other than rib bones that he loves to chew on, he has no toys that he likes. And he doesn't make any messes otherwise. Considering that I had eight Lhasa Apsos before him, he has created high scores with me in a short time. It's not so short of time now that I think of it, I've had him for at least three years. Time goes by quickly when you're having a good time!

Everyone (I mean everyone), thinks he is the cutest dog they have ever seen! His grooming is a little steep, but not many groomers will pick him up and deliver him back home after grooming like this one does!

He has a hamburger every morning but after that his diet doesn't change except for dry dog food. I give him far too much of my "people food". What can you do if they quietly stare at you? Otherwise he loves his hamburger every morning but it must be cooled down and cut into small bites for him. There is little else he demands, except he is crazy for people food. He is nuts for ice cream and loves toast dunked in coffee, loves York Mints, and most of what I eat. How could that be the case? I plead guilty. He only gets small bites of things, but enough that he knows he likes them. I think it's largely just because he sees me eating them. I make deviled eggs every week for my church's refreshment table and he now loves deviled eggs.

There's a reason that dogs are called "Man's best friend". When I get home after being gone for a few hours, Roscoe greets me as if I've been gone for days. Having that kind of welcome back home is great especially since there's no one else to greet me. I love this dog.

HOROSCOPE

JULY 17-23, 2025

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

The vibe this week will be forceful and will push you to take some risks or endure some hardships to accomplish creative projects or deal with things that are near and dear to your heart. The next two weeks will be all about getting things finished or prepared no matte how tough the situation is.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Shore up your home and family this week. Put your focus on creating stability in your life and having a safe space to weather storms or unexpected hazards. Invest in the people and spaces that shelter and protect you. Now is the time before unexpected circumstances arise.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

There are some relationships we don't get to choose, like siblings and classmates. These are the relationships that will prove to be the most challenging and at times put us in situations that ultimately prove our character and uncover our hidden strengths. Be ready to save the day.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

This is the time to review your financial situation and get things paid off, purchased or renegotiated. If there are things you have put off purchasing, this is the time to really investigate all the options available to help you solidify your decision. Don't let gossip guide you, look for verifiable facts.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

There may be some physical challenges to deal with this week and you may feel like you have to really advocate for yourself to be heard or get the things you need. It's the networking that is key now. Know how to state your situation in a more businesslike straight forward manner.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

This is the time to go within and face your inner demons. Embrace those things that keep you from making big moves in your life. Don't make a bunch of busy work to distract you from the real time and energy killers. Life may be full of hazards but it's the ones we actively ignore that hurt.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Social interactions will be challenging this week as there will be a lot of differences to navigate. Be careful how you handle people on an individual level because upset one, there's a good chance you will upset many. Take the time to work through things rather than acquiescing.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

There are just days when your authority and autonomy are challenged and those days are coming this week. Be prepared to not only explain what you are planning but exactly, step by step how you plan to proceed. Not only do you need a game plan, you'll need to prepare a guide for the coach.

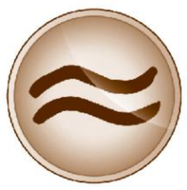
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

The energy this week will ignite your sense of duty and obligation. You will be willing to go out on a limb to sustain the things you think are important or if a loved one is in danger. Moral imperatives have the propensity to override your sense of personal safety at this time.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

There may be some push and pull in your commitment levels with others this week. Deeper connections will feel challenged and you may decide to renegotiate how much interaction or support you will continue to give. Being too involved carries too many hazardous at this time.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



Partners and close associates may be dealing with a lot now. This is the time to show your support and dig deeper into the commitment. Being part of a team means hanging tight when things get tough and doing your best when you have the chance. Get those big shoulders ready for some tears.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

Prepare to deal with health and wellness issues as well as scheduling changes due to coworkers needing time off. Don't ignore the benefits of a good night's sleep and healthy meals this week. This is the time to put your focus on healthy living and making time for those in need.

Will cannot be quenched against its will.
— Dante Alighieri

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	3	9	7			1		8
		7		6			3	
2	8						6	
		1	6	9			5	
	7	5						9
	1					2		
			9		4	7		6
		8				3		

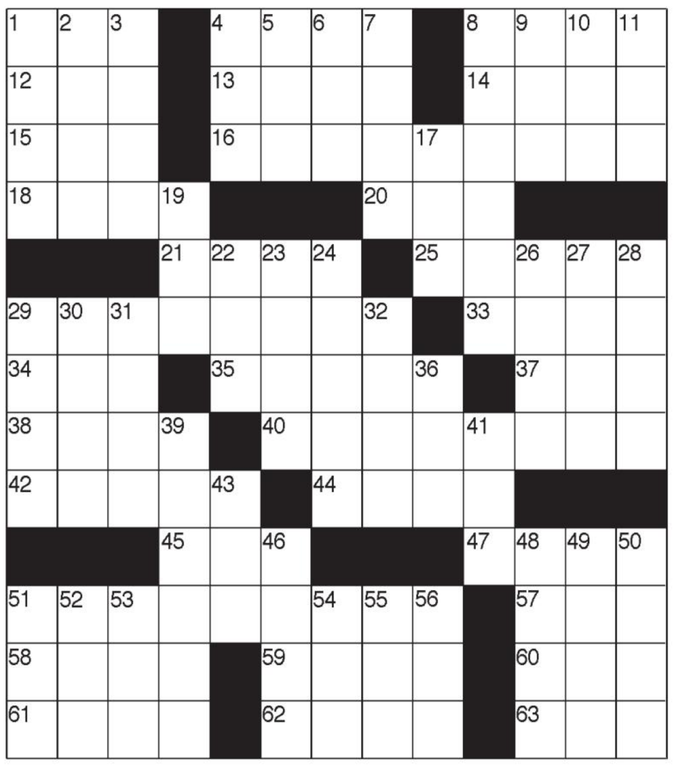
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Instrument Landing System (abbr.)
4 Sliced cabbage
8 Swabs
12 Day of the week (abbr.)
13 Hit on the head
14 Noun-forming (suf.)
15 Centigram (abbr.)
16 Stench
18 Chin. dynasty
20 No way!
21 Policemen
25 Keyboard musical instrument
29 Ivory color
33 Regrets
34 Length over all (abbr.)
35 Delay
37 Dative (abbr.)
38 Government (abbr.)
40 Cerine
42 Fictitious name
44 Coral islands
45 Pluck wool by hand
47 Use swear words
51 Dodge
57 Pan American Union (abbr.)
58 Amer. Civil Liberties Union (abbr.)
59 Bush
60 Tons per day (abbr.)
61 Leaves of water lilies
62 Move quickly
63 Office of Strategic Services (abbr.)

DOWN

1 Restless desire
2 Affectation
3 Half (pref.)
4 Standard cubic foot (abbr.)
5 Love (Scot.)
6 Atl. standard time (abbr.)
7 Furze
8 Monument stone
9 Not multifold
10 Personal computers
11 His (Fr.)
17 Dip
19 Alternating continuous waves (abbr.)
22 Exclamations of delight
23 Pocket bread
24 Hunting game stealthily
26 German auto
27 Clean
28 Bone: Gr.
29 Saint of the Russ. Orthodox Church
30 Deception
31 Hexagonal tiles
32 She (Fr.)
36 Ballad
39 Ankle
41 Nat'l Security Council (abbr.)
43 Bean
46 Cricket field parts
48 Till (2 words)
49 Drains
50 Beer
51 Father
52 Fiddler crab genus
53 Sealed (abbr.)
54 Office of Economic Development (abbr.)
55 Money of Anglo-Saxon England
56 Explosive



City not interested in data center plans

BY STAN MADDUX

Construction of an over $800 million data center is proposed in Michigan City, but local officials right now are not interested.

The Indiana Economic Development Commission last month approved a 35-year data center sales tax exemption as an incentive for the unidentified company planning a data center at the former Anco windshield wiper plant on Royal Road.

The exemption would save the firm over $40 million in taxes over the lifespan of the agreement.

According to the IEDC, plans for the data center will be finalized once an agreement has been struck with the city.

However, Mayor Angie Nelson Deuitch said the city is not pursuing the project since no formal agreement has been presented by the company for the city to consider.

She said initial talks were held with the firm in May.

Deuitch said data centers are not huge job creators and nothing else substantial enough in long term value to the community was offered during the previous discussions.

About 30 jobs are projected to be created by the proposed data center, according to IEDC.

"Unfortunately, the developer did not present any binding commitments that would ensure lasting benefits for Michigan City residents," she said.

She indicated the project could still gain support from the city if an offer is presented that meets the criteria her administration uses to evaluate major developments.

"Michigan City welcomes innovation and responsible investment, but our administration will always advocate for economic growth that is equitable, transparent and in the public interest," she said.

Data Centers have met resistance in some communities where they've wanted to locate because of limited job created and huge demand they have for water and power to operate.

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Burgers at White House cookout from Michigan cows

BY STAN MADDUX

Two beef producers in Michigan were at the White House for a Fourth of July cookout, where hamburgers provided from their cattle were served.

Don Nevill and Roger Noonan were among several thousand people on the White House lawn for the cookout and fireworks show honoring people serving in the military and their families.

They didn't get a chance to meet President Trump, but they saw him up close waving to the crowd from a White House balcony.

Both men described being there as a once in a lifetime opportunity made even more special from having their beef used to help to feed the guests.

"I was very proud to be there," Nevill said.

"I'd do it again in a heartbeat," Noonan said.

Both men were invited by JBS Foods, one of the largest processors and packagers of beef in the world.

The company was a supplier of ground beef for the cookout and had recently processed some of the cattle belonging to Nevill and Noonan at their facility in Plainwell in the southwest lower peninsula of the state.

As it turned out, JBS Foods using a tracking system determined some of their meat reserved for the festivities at the nation's capital came from Nevill and Noonan.

The company then called both men inviting them to the occasion, but their answers didn't come right away.

Nevill said he and his wife, Penny, already had plans to go camping with their grandchildren, but the grandchildren without hesitation told them "you're going to the White House."

It took only about 15 minutes for him to call back and accept the invitation.

Noonan said he wasn't going to go at first because of his busy schedule but called back the next time to accept the invitation.

He and his wife, Beth, decided their two sons also working at the farm could fill the gap until they returned.

"I was very appreciative of being there," Noonan said.

Nevill, 69, keeps about 500 head of Angus cows in Clare where four previous generations of family members farmed mostly on different properties since 1872.

About one-third of his cattle go in for processing while the rest is used as breeding stock purchased by other farmers to raise and finish.

He also raises corn and hay as feed for his cattle and sells a lot of his hay to farmers in Florida.

In addition, he owns Nevill Supply, a store he founded in 1982 that provides fencing, livestock equipment, water pipe and other farm related merchandise like baler twine.

There's also a mill at the store for making wooden fence posts used in farming.

Besides hamburgers, Nevill said there were hot dogs, potato salad and other traditional cookout fixings but he was most surprised by how friendly everybody was toward each other at what he thought would be a more gala type setting.

"It was just like a good old hometown everybody knows everybody celebration. It was fantastic," he said.

Noonan, 69, a fourth-generation farmer, has about 200 head of cattle in Maple City.

He also raises about 120 acres of cherries, 200 acres of corn along with 150 acres of small grains such as rye.

"I'm sure glad we got invited and I'm sure glad we went," he said.

Both men also stayed an extra day or two after the cookout to go sight-seeing on what was their first ever trip to the nation's capital.

Noonan said he went to places like the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery where he watched the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Initially, Nevill said he didn't consider the invitation that big of deal, but it didn't take long after putting down the phone for him to start feeling "blown away by this opportunity."

"I don't feel I realized the gravity of it but a few minutes later I'm like you're going to the White House," he said.

Nevill is an active member of the Michigan Cattlemen's Association and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

PET OF THE WEEK

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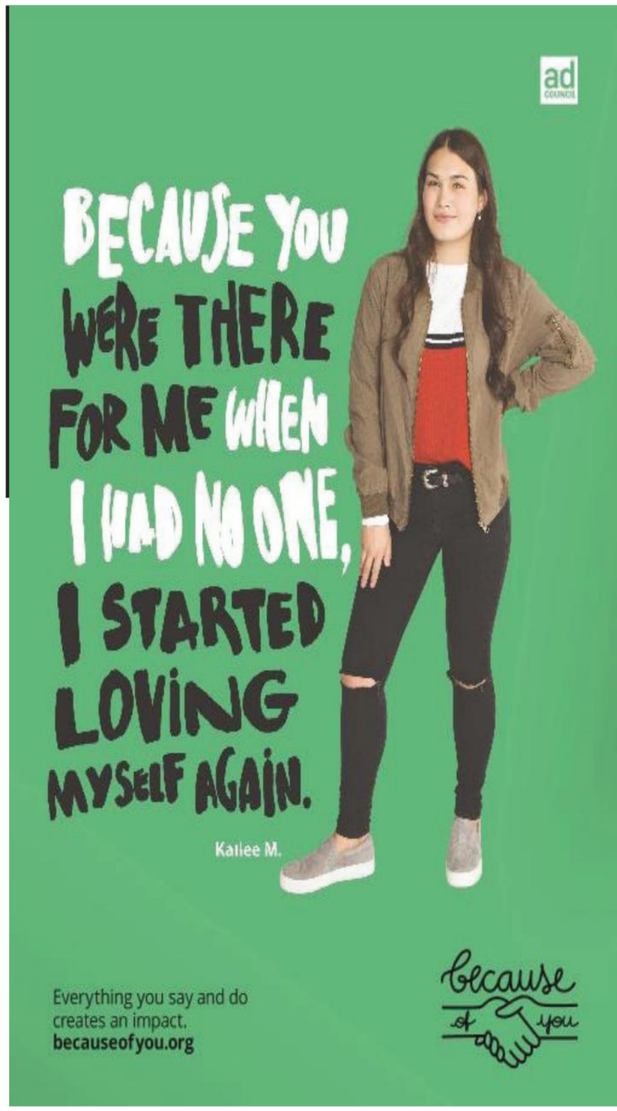
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Alyssa Brake and Daniel Maguire (center) cut the ribbon on Farm Chefs with Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce members

Farm Chefs boasts farm-fresh meals for the home

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Those who visit Farm Chefs can bring the bounty of the region's farm-fresh items right into their kitchens.

Customers can stop by the business' Sawyer location to grab chef-made, heat-and-go meal kits, which prioritize local and regional ingredients. For days they don't want to cook, frozen meals are available.

A meal or schedule of meals can also be pre-ordered and picked up in Sawyer or at their partner location, Skip's European Farmers Market.

Alyssa Brake, who co-owns Farm Chefs with Daniel Maguire, said that the goals of Farm Chefs are to ensure "we are using as local a product and ingredients as we can and sourcing ethically as much as possible and also using sustainable packaging as much as possible to help with lots of local, small economies."

"But also, we want to make really easy, delicious melas for folks to have on hand when they need it the most and when they don't feel like cooking," she said.

Brake, who has a degree in horticulture, said she's been cooking for 20 years, 10 of which have been in the area. Maguire has a background in food manufacturing.

Maguire said that they use some produce from the farm on his property, but everything is mostly sourced from other local farms.

"That's what we feel our role is in the ecosystems: To help elevate those producers – it was a great opportunity to highlight some of the farmers that we really appreciate and love to have in the area," he said.

Maguire said that Farm Chefs will be working with the Food and Drug Administration on vacuum sealing as packaging as he and Brake enter wholesale with some of their vegetarian meals.

Maguire said that they don't exclude items that can't be grown here, such as citrus, from their recipes.

On Memorial Day weekend, the menu revolved around "midwestern, cook-out style" food. This included macaroni and cheese, such as brisket macaroni and cheese, which is now a staple menu item.

There are also lighter items, such as chicken and sorrel polenta and oyster mushroom and scape enchiladas.

Maguire said they're waiting for the tomatoes, which have yet to make their debut this year.

"We mix things up a lot depending on the ingredients that are available because of the season," he said.

Farm Chefs is located at 12857 Red Arrow Highway in Sawyer. You can also find them at Skip's European Farmers Market on Saturdays and Sundays at 16710 Lakeshore Road in New Buffalo.

For more information on hours and ordering items, visit www.farmchefs.com.

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